

# **Resolution on Sustainability & the Design and Construction of High Performance Schools**

## **Albany Unified School District Board of Education**

**Resolution #2016-17-01  
Adopted August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**WHEREAS**, since its incorporation in 1908, the City of Albany has a long tradition of environmental activism;

**WHEREAS**, the Albany Unified School District work closely together as each school campus serves not only as a center for education, but also as a gathering place and a focal point for the community around it;

**WHEREAS**, Students and staff are entitled to a safe and healthy school environment, and studies have indicated that student achievement is greater and attendance higher, and teacher and staff retention is improved, when the learning environment is naturally comfortable and well maintained;

**WHEREAS**, Schools should employ design, construction and operation strategies that minimize operating costs, in particular for energy and water use;

**WHEREAS**, Schools that follow sustainable design principles can contribute to our community's environment by minimizing waste and air and water pollution;

**WHEREAS**, new school construction, modernization and operation within the City of Albany should be in alignment with the Climate Action goals and objectives of the City of Albany General Plan;

**WHEREAS**, the District's program to build new schools and renovate existing ones provides a unique opportunity to move beyond standard designs;

**WHEREAS**, the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) has developed comprehensive design criteria based on the latest available information on sustainable school design, construction, and operation;

**WHEREAS**, Schools designed to meet the CHPS criteria incorporate environmental features that provide a context for learning;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Albany Unified School District Board of Education recognizes the progress already made by the District's staff and design teams to incorporate sustainable design criteria into the District's school construction and modernization program, creating high quality learning environments that are flexible and able to adapt to change; and

**RESOLVED** further, that every new school, new building and major modernization project—within the budget for the project—meet the CHPS Criteria minimum qualifying point and prerequisite threshold; and that the focus be on criteria in the following priority areas:

1. Student performance and staff health through measures such as daylighting, natural ventilation, the use of non toxic-emitting materials, and sound insulation or isolation to minimize noise and enhance classroom acoustical quality, and flexible and adaptable classrooms

2. Operating cost minimization through resource efficiency and a goal of being Net Zero Energy Ready
3. Minimizing the impact of District operations on the environment
4. Taking advantage of financial incentive programs

**RESOLVED** further, that the Board of Education directs staff to follow the CHPS Roadmap and scorecard to ensure the efficient and complete implementation of CHPS, including creating a performance tracking system to ensure the effective implementation of the CHPS criteria throughout design, construction and operation; and

**RESOLVED** further, that the Board of Education endorses District participation in and directs staff to pursue partnerships that further the goal of high performance schools, including Federal, State and utility programs that provide sustainable design financial incentives, and;

**RESOLVED** further, that during the design phase of all District construction projects, architects and staff shall—within the budget for the project—ensure that each design meets or exceeds the minimum requirements for CHPS certification, and shall report the scores for all of the CHPS categories; and the Board strongly recommends project participation in the CHPS Verified program, and;

**RESOLVED** further, that the Board of Education directs staff to develop an Environmental Purchasing Policy and a Maintenance and Operations Program for existing school buildings including an annual action plan for improvements, and;

**RESOLVED** further, that the Board of Education directs staff to report to the Board annually on the progress of this program, and provide quarterly summary statistics on the number of new schools and modernization projects designed and the percentage which have incorporated CHPS design criteria, and other statistics useful in assessing the progress of this effort, including an annual summary assessment of energy and water use in existing buildings and the utilization of the Maintenance and Operations Program.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Governing Board of the Albany Unified School District on this 9th day of August 2016, by the following vote:

AYES:	5
NOES:	0
ABSTAIN:	0
ABSENT:	0

APPROVED:



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President of the Board of Education of the  
Albany Unified School District

ATTEST:



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Secretary of the Board of Education of the  
Albany Unified School District